

NH Bureau of EMS-Bulletin

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Message from the Chief

The Bureau of EMS recently said goodbye to Norm Yanofsky, MD, who was a long-time member of the EMS Medical Control Board and a previous member of the EMS Coordinating Board. Norm played a huge role in the progress of EMS in NH over several decades. The Bureau presented Dr. Yanofsky with a plaque recognizing his years of hard work.

The other guy in the photo is saying goodbye too. After ten great years working for the NH Bureau of EMS it is time for me to move on as well. It's been very rewarding to have had a role in shaping the future of EMS in our great state, and I truly appreciate the great EMS providers I have had the privilege to work with. I plan on staying in EMS, and I hope to work with you all again in the years to come.

-Clay Odell



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AEMT Transition Status

As the March 31 recertification deadline looms near, we are busy verifying candidates and issuing vouchers for the AEMT Transition exam. To date, the Division has issued over 200 vouchers for the AEMT Transition exam. As of March 12, we have had 159 attempts at the AEMT Transition exam, with 96 passing and 63 failing. This represents a 60% pass rate, which is well above the national average of 53%. While we are proud that our Providers are passing above the national average, we are committed to improving that pass rate. We will be working diligently to identify areas of weakness and working to develop resources to address those weaknesses. It is particularly important to note that individuals must also take personal responsibility for adequately preparing for the exam. An AEMT Transition class alone is not likely to be enough to prepare students to pass the exam – much self-study will be required.

Refresher Updates

With this being the first refresher cycle with acceptance of out-of-state Refresher Training Programs (RTP's) and "refresher by continuing education", the Education Section plans to conduct random audits of training records for those Providers who choose to obtain their refresher requirements by these methods. This audit process is intended to ensure that we remain in compliance with our statutory charge of ensuring that New Hampshire's Providers are all properly trained in order to ensure the safety and welfare of the public. Providers who choose to refresh by these non-traditional methods are advised to retain meticulous records that include dates, times, objectives, and instructor names and qualifications for each training topic that Providers utilize towards their refresher requirements. Retention of training records subject to audit is also a requirement of the National Registry, so these records should be readily producible by all Providers.

Research & Quality Management

Update on the Statewide Field Bridge and Field Bridge Express Licenses

The contract for these licenses is scheduled to go to Governor and Council for approval on March 20th. Once that contract is approved, we will be able to start turning on licenses for services. For those interested in the Field Bridge license, please submit an application. Please submit this application if you want to start using Field Bridge, if you want add computers to your service, or if you are already using it. As a reminder, there is no cost, and no limit on computers. For those services interested in the Field Bridge Express, there is a limit of 35 service

licenses (unlimited devices per service). As of March 14th, only 21 licenses have been submitted. Information on the Field Bridge and Field Bridge Express licenses, as well as the application to apply is at: <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/forms.html>

The contract approval will also include a statewide CAD (computer aided dispatch) integration module. Services wishing to participate on a voluntary basis will need to pay a \$500 configuration fee to Image Trend, and any additional costs your dispatch center may charge. This feature requires technical setup and coordination, so please contact the TEMSIS staff for information.

Field Services Section

EMS Provider Licensing 2013

A reminder to all Unit Leaders and Providers – this year will be the first year allowing current Provider licenses (exp. 3/31/13) to be extended until April 30, 2013. This means that no waivers will need to be requested by Unit Leaders until mid-April if personnel still have not received their updated National Registry (NR) certification card. Please remember that no Provider will be approved for a waiver if they have not completed all necessary NR recertification requirements and submitted their paperwork to the NR for consideration. In addition, because of the new 30-day leeway that is automatically granted, it will be more difficult to receive a waiver than in the past.

Online Renewals

Our new electronic renewal system is working out very well and we are currently processing licenses in a two to three day time frame. The "License Identification Number" (LIN#) process has given a simplified process to those Providers that made sure to keep their mailing addresses current in our system and who took the advice not to throw the letter away or lose its contents.

EMS Management Course

The Bureau of EMS is working with the New England Council for EMS and Springfield College to plan a 2013 EMS Management Course at the Fire Academy. The 2012 course was cancelled as many changes were happening with the curriculum and management of the program. We will publicize the dates for the 2013 program once it has been finalized.

Advanced Life Support

The Most Current Version of the Protocols

Despite our very best efforts, since the release of the 2013 NH Patient Care Protocols a number of providers found typos and formatting errors in the protocols. Those errors have been corrected and reposted to our website. The MOST CURRENT version of the protocols will always be the one posted on our website. If you are questioning whether you have the correct version or not, please refer to the version number on the inside cover.

Preplanned Medical Standby Coverage

In January 2013 the NH Bureau of EMS approved a plan to allow NH licensed EMS providers to offer standby coverage in settings other than traditional emergency coverage. Before this plan, any EMS provider who wanted to provide medical standby coverage at football games, summer camps, large concerts, etc. had to do so as a member of a NH licensed EMS Unit. While that practice is still encouraged, the Preplanned Medical Standby Coverage Plan gives another option. For more information you can find the plan at: http://www.nhdoe.nh.gov/irc/?page_id=2763